

Furosemide 40mg Tablets - Leaflet

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Package Leaflet: Information for the user

Furosemide 40mg Tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Furosemide is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Furosemide
3. How to take Furosemide
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Furosemide
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Furosemide is and what it is used for

Furosemide belongs to a group of medicines called diuretics (water tablets).

Your doctor has prescribed Furosemide to treat a condition called oedema where there is too much water in your body. This could be due to problems with your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, blood vessels or high blood pressure. Furosemide helps your kidneys to get rid of the extra water that is not needed in your body.



2. What you need to know before you take Furosemide

Do not take Furosemide if you:

- are allergic to furosemide, other sulphonamide related medicines or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- have anuria (failure of the kidneys to produce urine) or impaired kidney function or kidney failure resulting from poisoning by nephrotoxic and/or hepatotoxic agents
- have severe kidney damage which has stopped them from working properly and producing urine
- have very low levels of potassium, sodium or other electrolytes in your blood or low blood volume (your doctor will be able to advise you)
- are dehydrated
- have low blood pressure
- take potassium supplements or potassium sparing diuretics for high blood pressure (e.g. amiloride or spironolactone)
- have liver cirrhosis (the symptoms are tiredness, weakness, water retention, feeling or being sick, loss of weight or appetite, yellowing skin or eyes, itch) or liver encephalopathy, condition in which toxic substances accumulate in the blood (the symptoms are confusion, altered levels of consciousness and coma as a result of liver failure)
- have Addison's disease (low levels of corticosteroid hormones secreted)
- have digitalis poisoning (feeling or being sick, high levels of potassium in the blood, slow, fast or irregular heartbeats)
- are breast-feeding.

Warnings and precautions

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Furosemide if you:

- have low blood volume (hypovolaemia) or are at risk of developing low blood pressure
- have low levels of protein in the blood (hypoproteinaemia) as a result of kidney damage

- have liver congestion (slowed blood flow through the vessels) or other liver problems
- have kidney problems
- have or may have diabetes. If you are taking insulin, your doctor may need to adjust your insulin dosage
- are elderly, or you take other medicines which can cause the drop of blood pressure or you have other medical conditions that are risks for the drop of blood pressure
- have prostate trouble or difficulty passing urine
- have or have had gout
- have an abnormal blood condition
- are about to undergo any blood or urine tests.

Your doctor will want to monitor you and may take blood for testing while you are taking this medicine.

Other medicines and Furosemide

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Especially:

- medicines used to treat high blood pressure known as angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or Angiotensin-II receptor antagonists, such as captopril, losartan
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure or prostate problems known as alpha-blockers, such as prazosin
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure, angina (type of chest pain) and heart failure known as beta blockers, such as propranolol, atenolol, sotalol
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure and other medicines used to remove water from the body known as diuretics, such as acetazolamide and metolazone
- medicine used to treat heart failure and unusual heart rhythms, called digoxin
- medicines used to treat unusual heart beats, such as amiodarone, disopyramide, flecainide, lidocaine and mexiletine

- a medicine used to prevent atrial fibrillation (disease of the heart characterized by irregular heartbeat), medicine used to prevent clotting and stroke called warfarin
- a medicine used to treat high cholesterol, called clofibrate
- medicines used to treat pain and inflammation
- known as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as indometacin or salicylates such as aspirin
- medicines used to treat inflammation known as corticosteroids, such as prednisolone and dexamethasone
- medicines used to treat infections caused by bacteria, such as lymecycline, vancomycin, gentamicin, ceftriaxone and colistin
- medicines used to treat infections caused by fungus, such as amphotericin
- medicines used to treat infections caused by a virus, such as nelfinavir, ritonavir and saquinavir
- medicine used to prevent rejection after transplants, such as tacrolimus, ciclosporin
- medicines used to treat depression, such as reboxetine, amitriptyline and phenelzine
- medicines used to treat mental problems called 'psychoses', such as risperidone, amisulpride, sertindole, pimozide and chlorpromazine
- a medicine used to treat extreme mood swings, called lithium
- a medicine used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), called atomoxetine
- medicines used to treat epilepsy, such as carbamazepine, phenobarbital and phenytoin
- medicines to treat asthma, such as salmeterol, salbutamol and theophylline. These medicines also treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- medicines used to treat blocked noses, such as ephedrine and xylometazoline
- a medicine used to treat mouth ulcers and problems with the digestive area of the stomach (the upper gastrointestinal area), called carbenoxolone

- medicines used to treat cancer, called cisplatin and methotrexate
- medicine used to treat constipation, such as laxatives
- a medicine used to treat gout, called probenecid
- potassium salts used to treat low potassium in the blood
- anything that contains large amount of liquorice
- a medicine used to treat stomach ulcers, called sucralfate. Do not take sucralfate within two hours of taking Furosemide. This is because the sucralfate can stop the Furosemide from working properly.
- medicines used as injections before X-ray examinations (radiocontrast agent).

If you are not sure if any of the above applies to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Furosemide.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Do not drive or operate machinery if you feel less alert after taking Furosemide.

Furosemide contains lactose

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

3. How to take Furosemide

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. If you are not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist. Swallow the tablets with a glass of water. The recommended dose is:

Adults, children over 12 years and adolescents:

- Water retention: the usual starting dose is 1 tablet (40 mg) in the morning, then half a tablet (20 mg) a day or 1 tablet (40 mg) on alternate days. Do not exceed 2 tablets (80 mg) a day.

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